

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 715
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0723

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PP
SUBJ: BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DISPUTE

REF: PORT MORESBY 710

1. NEWS BROADCAST JULY 27 REPORTED TALKS BETWEEN BPG AND KIKI LED GOVT TEAM BROKE DOWN AFTER FOUR HOURS.
2. KIKI REFUSED DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT INDEPENDENT BOUGAINVILLE.
3. BPG REJECTED OUTRIGHT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PACKAGE OFFER WORTH K4.2 MILLION REPRESENTING INCREASE ONE HALF MILLION DOLLARS AUSTRALIAN FROM GOVT OFFER OF EARLY 1975. PACKAGE INCLUDED FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. ORIGINAL WORKS PROGRAM GRANT	K 1.3 MILLION
B. ROYALTIES	K 2. MILLION
C. NON RENEWABLE RESOURCES FUND	K 0.099 MILLION
D. OPERATIONS GRANT	K .140 MILLION
E. ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUND	K .500
TOTAL	K 4.039 MILLION

4. BPG REPS STATED THEY WOULD GO AHEAD WITH SECESSION; WHILE KIKI SAID GOVT OFFER STILL STOOD SHOULD BPG
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MEMBERS WISH TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

COMMENT: NEGOTIATION BREAKDOWN LEAVES BALL IN BPG COURT. IF BPG IS TO MAKE CREDIBLE ITS SECESSION THREAT, IT WILL HAVE TO TAKE SOME ACTION TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CENTRAL GOVT FIAT DOES NOT RUN IN BOUGAINVILLE. THIS COULD TAKE FORM OF HARASSMENT OF MINE, REFUSAL TO OBEY ORDERS OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OR OTHER CENTRAL GOVT AUTHORITIES, OR EVEN THEIR EJECTION FROM BOUGAINVILLE.

5. WHILE SOMARE GOVT'S RESPONSE TO BPG SITUATION OVER PAST FEW MONTHS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY MODERATE, AUSTRALIAN OFFICE REP INDICATED THERE ARE GROWING NUMBERS OF MIDDLE LEVEL CENTRAL GOVT LEADERS WHO ARE "JUST WAITING" FOR THE BPG TO DO SOMETHING ILLEGAL AND ARE HOPING THAT SOMARE WOULD THEN TAKE A TOUGHER LINE. FROM ALL INDICATIONS WE HAVE, SOMARE STILL BELIEVES IT IN PNG INTEREST TO NURSE SITUATION ALONG, IF POSSIBLE, UNTIL AFTER PNG INDEPENDENCE.
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Message Attributes

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